

Stanislaus National Forest
Project Administrator
Chuck James OHV Specialist
P.O. Box 100
Mi- Wuk Village, CA 95346

Dear: Chuck James

The Merced Dirt Riders (MDR) look forward to working with the Stanislaus NF on a volunteer basis to clear and maintain trails within the forest. Our club has been volunteering on the forest since 1982.

The MDR wish to show full support for following grant applications:

- 1 G10-02-19-D01 Development- Interface OHV Parking Area Improvements 57,210
- 2 G10-02-19-D02 Development-Twomile 40,308
- 3 G10-02-19-G01 Ground Operations- Stanislaus NF 504,519
- 4 G10-02-19-R01 Restoration- Jones Meadow 64,176
- 5 G10-02-19-R02 Restoration- Liberty Hill 80,250
- 6 G10-02-19-R03 Restoration- Twomile 243,778
- 7 G10-02-19-R04 Restoration- Mi-Wok 107,037

- 1 G10-02-32-L01 Law Enforcement 150,000

The Merced Dirt Riders are opposed to the following grant applications:

- 8 G10-02-19-R05 Restoration-Stanislaus 159,284

The G10-02-19-R05 Restoration-Stanislaus grant application is stating that Sixty-one route segments, totaling 14 miles in length will be restored and closed to motorized vehicle travel under this project. Which works out to be 2.2 tenths of a mile per route segment.

The MDR believes that most of these Sixty-one routes led to dispersed campsites that will be closed under this restoration grant. Under the TMP very few short routes were designed open to dispersed campsites. Under the Stanislaus NF ROD the distance that we can park is one vehicle length off a road. This ROD puts our families in harms way from several sources, traffic, dust, noise and conflict with other users.

The MDR suggests that this money not be spent at this time. The Stanislaus NF Supervisor Susan Skalski and Recreation Officer Sue Warren have said that the issue of dispersed campsites would be revisited under new projects. There maybe a few that need to be closed because of serve environmental reasons but most do not pose that threat. There have been several great dispersed campsites closed recently that would have been great for several trailers and or motor homes off of a major route. Most of the trailers and motor homes are self-contained and do not pose a health issue. Why close all of these if they are going to be looked at again?

Sincerely

Michael Damaso

Michael Damaso, President
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